

strike out 'him' and insert 'them' same line, strike out 'his' and insert 'their.'

In the title of the bill after the word 'Johnston' insert 'John Malloy.' the said bill was then read a second, by special order, a third time, and passed with the proposed amendments.

Mr. Heath, from the committee, to whom was referred the petition of Micajah Merryman, Junr. and others, praying for a law confirming and making valid the division of the property therein mentioned, reported that the committee had had the same under consideration, and were of opinion the prayer of the petitioners ought not to be granted, and that the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petition.

Which report was read and concurred in.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, the Senate resumed the consideration of the message with the substitute offered by Mr. Kennedy, relative to the bill entitled, an act for the general valuation and assessment of property in this State.

Mr. Smith, then offered the following message as a substitute for the one offered by Mr. Kennedy, which was read.

By the Senate, March 10, 1839.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

We have rejected the bill entitled, an act for the general valuation and assessment of property in this State. We have also considered the amendments reported by the committee of conferences in which we concur, as improving the bill, but not enough so to ensure its adoption by the Senate. We are of opinion, that an assessment is not required at this time. Many of the counties have at recent intervals had new valuations of property and it is presumed, that others will ask for the requisite enactments which their wants may call for the aid of the legislature. It is true, that assessments made in this way, will not be equal throughout the State, but it is deemed more advisable, to submit to these fractional differences in any amount of tax to be levied, then to subject the whole State to a fresh burden of this kind.— Assessments too, are at all times vexatious to the people, and there are but few, who will patiently receive the odious investigations of the assessor.

But deeply impressed with the obligation imposed upon the General Assembly, not only to provide the means for meeting the public engagements, as were in the ordinary expenses of the government, as in the great and careful objects